



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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NEWS RELEASE – ANTHRAX UPDATE

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Anthrax has been confirmed for the second time this year in South Dakota, with the most recent case occurring in Lincoln County. Three beef cows were lost in the herd of fifty-one unvaccinated animals.

Anthrax is a very serious quarantinable disease because it can cause the rapid loss of a large number of animals in a very short time. Often animals are found dead with no illness detected. Strict enforcement of quarantine and proper burning and burying of carcasses suspected to have died from Anthrax is important to prevent further soil contamination with the bacterial spore.

Producers should consult their veterinarian and vaccinate their livestock if deemed appropriate. "It would make good sense to continue to vaccinate cattle and other livestock in the area for the next several years," states Dr. Sam Holland, State Veterinarian.

Dr. Holland reports that Anthrax spores survive in contaminated soil indefinitely and that much of South Dakota has the potential of experiencing an outbreak.

Significant climate changes such as drought, floods, and winds can expose Anthrax spores to grazing livestock. Alkaline soils, high humidity and high temperatures present conditions for the Anthrax spores to vegetate and become infectious to grazing livestock.

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